

# Service Area Plan

## Department of Social Services

### Child Support Supplement (45211)

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## Service Area Background Information

### Service Area Description

This service area funds the Child Support Supplement payments made to eligible individuals participating in one of the Commonwealth's safety net programs, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program which provides cash assistance to extremely low and no income families. The 2003 session of the Virginia General Assembly directed the Department of Social Services to pay to TANF households a payment equal to the child support collected each month, less the first \$50. These payments, known as Child Support Supplements, are paid from TANF funds. Participants whose case meets the following conditions receive a child support supplement: 1) the non-custodial parent pays their current support obligation to the Division of Child Support Enforcement, as required by law and 2) the current support amount exceeds \$50. The child support supplement is distributed directly to participants via check or direct deposit.

### Service Area Alignment to Missio

The Child Support Supplement Payments assist low-income families in meeting their basic human needs, a cornerstone of the social services system's mission to help individuals and families triumph over poverty and enable them to shape stronger futures for themselves and their families. This assistance often helps families avoid the unfortunate trade-off many low-income families make between housing, food and medical care.

### Service Area Statutory Authority

The 2002 Acts of Assembly mandated the Department of Social Services to provide to recipients of TANF cash assistance a monthly TANF supplement in an amount up to the current child support collected by the Division of Child Support Enforcement for each TANF recipient, less any disregard passed through to such recipient pursuant to any other provision of law.

### Service Area Customer Base

Customer(s)	Served	Potential
Low income individuals and families	6,530	7,063

### Anticipated Changes In Service Area Customer Bas

The modest rise in the TANF cash assistance program caseload and the continued success of the Division of Child Support Enforcement in collecting child support from non-custodial parents continues to drive increases in the number of individuals receiving the child support supplement.

### Service Area Partners

Local Departments of Social Services

State agencies

### Service Area Products and Services

- Economic assistance to low income families/individuals or nutrition, child care, health care eligibility, and financial assistance to low income families/individuals

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#### Factors Impacting Service Area Products and Services

The Child Support Supplement is impacted by the limitations of the allocation. To provide a payment in the full amount of the child support collected would require the allocation of approximately \$10.8 million. With an allocation of \$7.8 million, payments must be prorated. As happened in 2004, if the allocation is exhausted, then the initiative will stop until the beginning of the next fiscal year.

#### Anticipated Changes To Service Area Products and Service

None

#### Service Area Financial Summary

Funding for the Child Support Supplement is a funded by the federal TANF Block Grant.

	<u>Fiscal Year 2007</u>		<u>Fiscal Year 2008</u>	
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund
Base Budget	\$0	\$7,800,000	\$0	\$7,800,000
Changes To Base	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SERVICE AREA TOTAL	\$0	\$7,800,000	\$0	\$7,800,000

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**Service Area Objectives, Measures, and Strategies**

**Objective 45211.01**

***To provide to TANF recipients a supplemental payment up to the current support for a month paid to the Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE)***

Pay to TANF recipients an amount up to the monthly child support paid to the Division of Child Support Enforcement.

**This Objective Supports the Following Agency Goals:**

- Enhance the independence, well-being and personal responsibility of customers  
( The child support supplement is mandated in the 2002 Acts of Assembly and consistent with Goal #1 of the VSSS Strategic Plan as well as the Council on Virginia's Future long term objectives to "[i]nspire and support Virginians toward healthy lives and strong, resilient families.")

**This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):**

- **Measure 45211.01.00**

***The percent of qualified participants that receive a child support supplement payment.***

**Measure Type:** Output

**Measure Frequency:** Quarterly

**Measure Baseline:** 98%

**Measure Target:** 99% for each fiscal year

**Measure Source and Calculation:**

The data source is VDSS internal information systems. Calculation – Number of payments issued (numerator) over the total number that should have been issued, accounting for exceptions and cases where the payment would have been \$0.00.

**Objective 45211.01 Has the Following Strategies:**

- VDSS will timely process DCSE support information for TANF recipients, needed to determine the amount of the supplemental payment.
- Provide exception reports to the local departments of social services and DCSE District offices to resolve the identified exception.
- Issue child support supplemental payments to as the budgetary allocation allows.